GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:325
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2001
SHORTAGE OF TB AND CANCER DRUGS
H.G. RAMULU;VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that cases of TB and Cancer are increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the number of people suffering from TB and Cancer during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have provided necessary assistance and medicines to TB and Cancer patients;

(d) whether there is a huge shortage of medicines for TB and Cancer in the country;

(e) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to develop and modernise the Tuberculosis and Cancer Research Centres in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
(g) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to eradicate these diseases?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(g): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 325 FOR 12.12.2001.

(a) & (b)Time trend analysis of the data from population-based cancer registries over the last decade shows a small but significant increase in the overall incidence of cancer in the urban Cancer Registries, among both men and women.

Based on the data from Population based Cancer Registries under the National Cancer Registry Programme of ICMR, an estimated 20 lakhs cancer cases exist in the country at any given point of time. However, the State-wise distribution of cancer cases in India is not available.

As far as TB is concerned, the number of TB cases reported under National TB Control Programme have been more or less static during last few years. A statement indicating the State wise details of new sputum positive cases detected and put on treatment under National TB Control Programme during the last three years is annexed.

(c) In the Government Hospitals and Medical Colleges supported by the Central Government and Government supported Regional Cancer Centres, a large number of poor patients are either being treated free of cost or at nominal charges for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures involved in cancer treatment. In addition to above, this Ministry has a scheme namely National Illness Assistance Fund under which financial assistance is provided to people living below the poverty line suffering from serious diseases including Cancer.

As far as TB is concerned, under the National TB Control Programme, 100% requirement of anti-TB drugs is met by the Centre. All drugs in Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme areas and drugs for sputum positive cases in rest of the country are supplied as commodity assistance and for sputum negative cases, cash assistance is provided.

(d) No such shortage has been reported.

(e) to (g): This Ministry is giving great emphasis in implementation of the National Cancer Control Programme of which research is an important part.

Under the National Cancer Control Programme, assistance is provided for spreading awareness, diagnosis, treatment, research, etc.

Under the Programme, Government has started the followingschemes for early detection of, creating awareness about and treatment of cancer:-

(i) Upgradation of Regional Cancer Centres in various States/UTs

(ii) Development of Oncology Wing in identified Hospitals attached to Medical Colleges.

(iii) Setting up of Cobalt Therapy facilities in various parts of the country.

(iv) District Cancer Control Programme to provide services for prevention and early detection of cancer, training of existing medical and para-medial staff of the concerned district and palliative treatment to terminally ill patients.

(v) Financial assistance to NGOs for early detection and awareness activities.

Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai under ICMRis already engaged in research activites. To achieve a cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases, Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP)using the DOTS strategy, is being implemented in the country in a phased manner. About 440 million population has already been covered under the strategy under which more than 8 out of 10 cases are being successfully treated as compared to less than 4 out of 10 in the earlier programme. Under Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme, it is envisaged to cover 500 million population by 2002 and 800 million population by 2004.

ANNEXURE

statement SHOWING THE STATE WISE NUMBER OF NEW SPUTUM POSITIVE TB CASE DETECTED AND PU TREATMENT DURING THE YEAR 1998-99 TO 2000-01 UNDER NATIONAL TB CONTROL PROGRAMME

S.No	Name of the State/U.T.	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1	Andhra Pradesh	24799	24892	28,562
2	Arunachal Pradesh	415	414	410
3	Assam	1966	209	2,059
4	Bihar	2334	6980	-
5	Goa	316	515	485
6	Gujarat	59814	34911	30,981
7	Haryana	5674	9226	7,761
8	Himachal Pradesh	302	512	-
9	Jammu & Kashmir	1769	533	830
10	Karnataka	20511	20244	26,133
11	Kerala	3084	-	704
12	Madhya Pr.	16782	23683	25,037
13	Maharashtra	52220	64966	63,797
14	Manipur	1150	1012	1,385
15	Meghalaya	340	508	665
16	Mizoram	226	299	336
17	Nagaland	528	643	314
18	Orissa	6526	12106	4,480
19	Punjab	10817	9783	10,670
20	Rajasthan	14934	22953	23,584
21	Sikkim	336	417	409
22	Tamil Nadu	29971	25756	24,533
23	Tripura	616	981	5,555
24	U.P.	57347	65596	62,802
25	West Bengal	6964	15595	3,721
26	A & N Islands	251	210	265

27	Chandigarh	130	23	14
28	D & N haveli	0	187	182
29	Daman & Diu	0	153	170
30	Delhi	0	26911	10,413
31	Lakshadweep	0	0	5
32	Pondicherry	1798	1303	1,436
TOTAL		321920	371521	337,698

+ Not reported.